

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-109 and add new Claims 110-138 as follows.

1-109. (Canceled)

110. (New) A cassette for a recording medium, comprising an upper casing and a lower casing, a spool for holding a roll of recording medium and disposed between the upper and lower casings, and a side casing for enclosing the spool and joining the upper and lower casings, wherein the side casing is fitted to at least one of the upper and lower casings by press-fit or snap-fit connections.

111. (New) A cassette according to claim 1, wherein the upper and lower casings comprise grooves and/or protrusions and the side casing comprises corresponding protrusions and/or grooves for effecting the press-fit or snap-fit connections.

112. (New) A cassette according to claim 1, wherein the upper and lower casings and the side casing have a generally circular configuration, and comprise an exit area through which a recording medium disposed on the spool can exit.

113. (New) A cassette for a recording medium comprising an exit region for recording medium, and first and second flanges disposed at the exit region, each flange comprising one or more grooves adapted to receive an edge of a recording medium and allow the said edge to pass along the grooves.

114. (New) A cassette for a recording medium comprising a casing, wherein one region of the casing has a rib on its exterior surface, which rib is adapted to slide in a groove of a device in which the cassette can be inserted, the rib comprising a projection adapted to latch into a detent of a device in which the cassette can be inserted.

115. (New) A printing device comprising a recording medium receiving bay adapted to receive a recording medium cassette, wherein the receiving bay comprises a groove along which a rib of a recording medium cassette can be slid during insertion of the cassette into the recording medium receiving bay, the groove comprising a detent into which a projection of a rib of a recording medium cassette can be latched.

116. (New) In combination:

a cassette for a recording medium comprising a casing, wherein one region of the casing has a rib on its exterior surface; and

a printing device having a recording medium receiving bay adapted to receive a recording medium cassette, wherein the bay comprises a groove;

wherein the said rib of the recording medium cassette is adapted to slide in the groove of the recording medium receiving bay of the printing device, and wherein the groove comprises a detent and the rib comprises a projection, the projection latching into the detent.

117. (New) A printing device comprising a recording medium receiving bay adapted to receive a recording medium cassette, the receiving bay comprising first and second supports mounted in a moveably resiliently manner, the printing device further comprising a mechanism which is operable to allow separation of the supports for insertion of a recording medium cassette therebetween and is further operable to allow movement of the supports

towards one another to retain an inserted recording medium cassette in a substantially fixed position with respect to the recording medium receiving bay.

118. (New) A printing device adapted to receive a cassette therein, the printing device comprising one of a ramp and a resiliently moveable portion capable of interacting with the other of a ramp and a resiliently moveable portion of a cassette, such that during insertion of the cassette the ramp causes movement of the resiliently moveable portion from a position in which it would otherwise prevent insertion of the cassette into a position allowing insertion of the cassette.

119. (New) A printing device according to claim 118, wherein the printing device comprises the ramp and further comprises a detent into which the resiliently moveable portion can latch following insertion of the cassette.

120. (New) A printing device according to claim 119, wherein the detent is located such that when a resiliently moveable portion of a cassette has latched into the detent, the printing device is operable to print using the cassette.

121. (New) A printing device according to claim 120, wherein the detent is configured such that the said resiliently moveable portion is moveable following insertion of a cassette into the printing device to allow removal of a cassette from the printing device.

122. (New) A cassette adapted to be received in a printing device, the cassette comprising one of a ramp and a resiliently moveable portion capable of interacting with the other of a ramp and a resiliently moveable portion of a printing device, such that during insertion of the

cassette the ramp causes movement of the resiliently moveable portion from a position in which it would otherwise prevent insertion of the cassette into a position allowing insertion of the cassette.

123. (New) A cassette according to claim 122, wherein the cassette comprises the ramp and further comprises a detent into which the resiliently movable portion can latch following insertion of the cassette.

124. (New) A cassette according to claim 123, wherein the detent is located such that when a resiliently movable portion of the printing device has latched into the detent, the printing device is operable to print using the cassette.

125. (New) A cassette accordingly to claim 124, wherein the detent is configured such that the said resiliently movable portion is movable following insertion of the cassette into the printing device to allow removal of a cassette from the printing device.

126. (New) In combination a printing device and a cassette adapted to be received in the printing device, the printing device comprising a resiliently moveable portion capable of interacting with a ramp of a cassette, such that during insertion of the cassette the ramp causes movement of the resiliently moveable portion from a position in which it would otherwise prevent insertion of the cassette into a position allowing insertion of the cassette.

127. (New) A cassette comprising a hollow spool for holding a recording medium, and a sprocket disposed inside at least a part of the spool and driveable to rotate the spool for unwinding recording medium therefrom, wherein a surface of the sprocket is in contact with an

interior surface of the spool comprises a plurality of protrusions which bear on the inside surface of the spool.

128. (New) A printer comprising a cassette receiving bay for receiving a cassette holding recording medium, the cassette receiving bay comprising a sprung portion which is openable to allow insertion of a cassette in the receiving bay and which is arranged to, following insertion of a cassette, close under a spring force, thereby locking an inserted cassette in the receiving bay.

129. (New) A printer according to claim 128, wherein the sprung portion is arranged to open and close in a plane perpendicular to the direction of insertion of a cassette.

130. (New) A cassette for use with a printer, the cassette comprising one or more ribs on an outside surface of the cassette, at least one of the ribs being substantially channel-shaped, wherein at least one of the legs of the channel-shape is disposed at an angle of greater than 90° to the base of the channel-shape.

131. (New) In combination a printer and a cassette, the printer comprising a cassette receiving bay for receiving the cassette, the cassette receiving bay comprising a fixed portion and a sprung portion which is openable to allow insertion of the cassette in the receiving bay and which is arranged to, following insertion of the cassette, close under a spring force, thereby locking the inserted cassette in the receiving bay, wherein when the sprung portion is open, the sprung portion and the fixed portion together form one or more grooves through which a corresponding one or more ribs of the cassette can slide during insertion, thereby retaining the sprung portion in an open position during insertion.

132. (New) A recording medium cassette comprising a casing and having a wound roll of recording medium disposed in the casing which roll can unwind such that an end of the recording medium can exit the casing, wherein the cassette further comprises a leaf spring disposed on the casing and oriented to act on the recording medium to exert a force in a direction towards the center of the roll of recording medium.

133. (New) A set of cassettes for holding a recording medium, each cassette comprising an upper portion and a lower portion disposed apart a distance and joined together by attachment to a side portion having a width corresponding to the distance, thereby enabling a roll of recording medium to be held between the upper and lower portions with the width of the recording medium being oriented substantially parallel to the width of the side portion, wherein each cassette has a side portion of a different width.

134. (New) A printer for use with a cassette holding recording medium, the printer comprising :

a driver operable to drive in a forward direction to unwind recording medium of a cassette inserted in the printer and to drive in a reverse direction for rewinding recording medium;

a detector operable to detect that an inserted cassette is to be removed from the printer and, when such a detection is made, generating a signal indicating that a cassette is to be removed,

wherein the driver is arranged to receive the generated signal and in response thereto, drive in the reverse direction for rewinding a length of recording medium of an inserted cassette.

135. (New) A printer for use with a cassette holding recording medium, the printer comprising :

a printing zone comprising a platen and a printer device arranged to receive therebetween recording medium held in a cassette inserted in the printer, to thereby print an image on a length of the recording medium, the platen being rotatable to drive a length of recording medium through the printing zone; and

a driver comprising a feed roller arranged to rotate to thereby unwind recording medium held in an inserted cassette to thereby feed recording medium to the printing zone,

wherein the printer is arranged to, when a length of recording medium unwound by the driver reaches the printing zone, rotate the platen to drive the length of recording medium through the printing zone.

136. (New) A printer comprising:

a cassette receiving bay for receiving a cassette holding recording medium;

a roller driver disposed in a region in which recording medium exits a cassette inserted in the cassette receiving bay; and

a lever operable to move the roller driver from a position in which a cassette can be inserted to a position in which it will contact recording medium as the recording medium exits an inserted cassette.

137. (New) An ink ribbon cassette comprising :

a supply spool for holding a roll of ink ribbon;

a take-up spool onto which ink ribbon unwound from the supply spool is wound;

a driveable sprocket arranged to rotate the supply spool for rewinding unwound ribbon onto the supply spool; and

a spring disposed to act axially on the sprocket for maintaining tension of the ink ribbon between the supply and take-up spools.

138. (New) An ink ribbon cassette comprising :

a hollow supply spool for holding a roll of ink ribbon; and

a driveable sprocket at least part of which is disposed inside the supply spool to rotate the supply spool for rewinding unwound ribbon onto the supply spool,

wherein the end of the sprocket that is not disposed inside the supply spool comprises an inner cylinder and an outer cylinder, the inner cylinder extending further in a direction away from the supply spool than the outer cylinder.